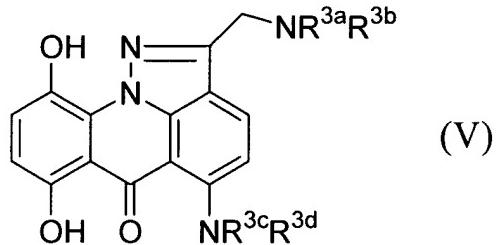


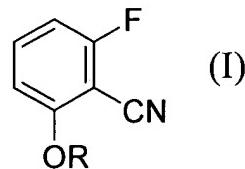
a.) Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative represented by general formula (V):



<wherein wherein R^{3a}, R^{3b}, R^{3c} and R^{3d} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, -(CH₂)_n-Y¹ [wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y¹ represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or -NR^{4a}R^{4b} {wherein R^{4a} and R^{4b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, or -(CH₂)_m-Y² [wherein m represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y² represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or -NR^{5a}R^{5b} (wherein R^{5a} and R^{5b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl)], or R^{4a} and R^{4b} forms a heterocyclic group together with the adjacent nitrogen atom}], or -CH((CH₂)_pOH)₂ (wherein p represents an integer of 1 to 5)> which comprises steps of, which comprises steps of:

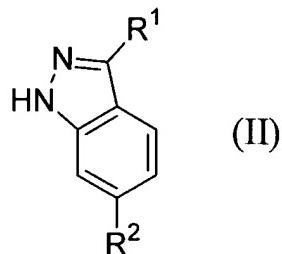
reacting a compound represented by general formula (I):



(wherein wherein R represents lower alkyl) alkyl

in the presence of a base with a compound represented by general formula

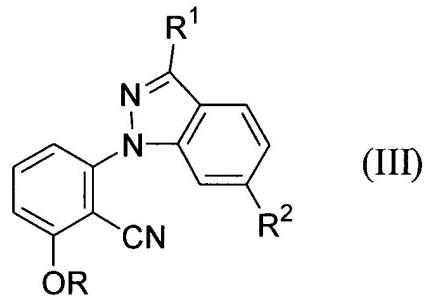
(II):



[wherein wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl] aryl

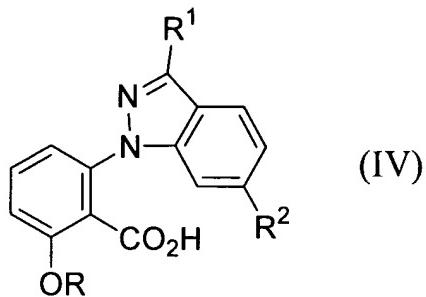
in the presence of a base

to produce a compound represented by general formula (III):



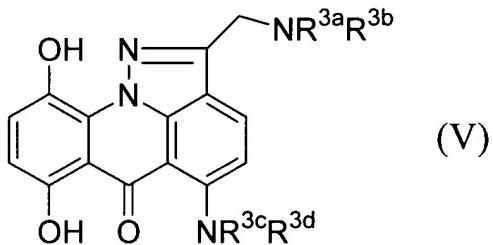
(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively);

and hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by general formula (III) to produce a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by general formula (IV):



~~(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively).~~

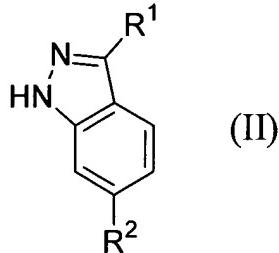
2. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative represented by ~~general~~ formula (V):



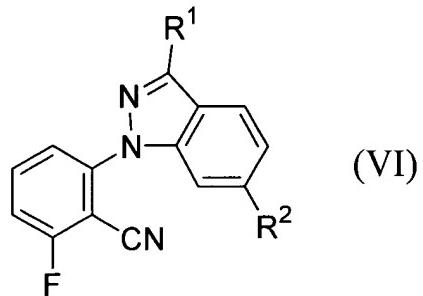
~~(wherein R3a, R3b, R3c and R3d have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)~~

wherein R^{3a}, R^{3b}, R^{3c} and R^{3d} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, -(CH₂)_n-Y¹ [wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y¹ represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or -NR^{4a}R^{4b} {wherein R^{4a} and R^{4b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, or -(CH₂)_m-Y² [wherein m represents an integer of 1 to 6; and Y² represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, or -NR^{5a}R^{5b} (wherein R^{5a} and R^{5b} are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl)], or R^{4a} and R^{4b} forms a heterocyclic group together with the adjacent nitrogen atom}], or -CH((CH₂)_pOH)₂ (wherein p represents an integer of 1 to 5), which comprises steps of:

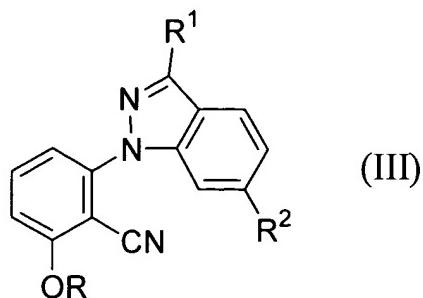
which comprises steps of
reacting 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile with a compound represented by general formula (II):



(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl in the presence of a base to produce a compound represented by general formula (VI):



(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively);
converting the resulting compound represented by general formula (VI) into a compound represented by general formula (III):

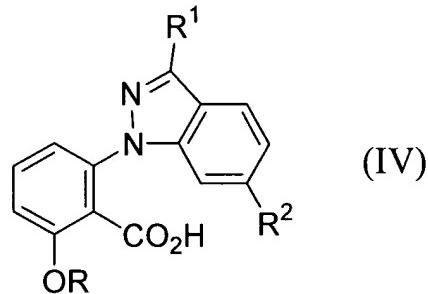


(~~wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively~~) wherein R

represents lower alkyl;

and

hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by
general formula (III) to produce a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by
general formula (IV):



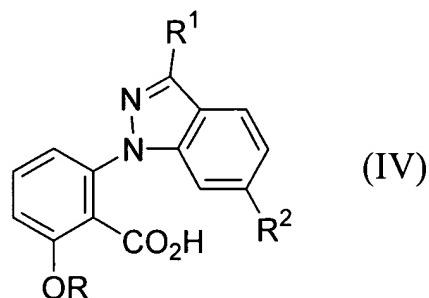
(~~wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above,~~

respectively).

3. (Original) The process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R is methyl.

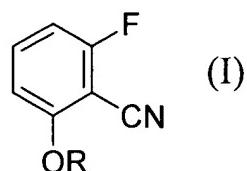
4. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claims 1 or 2, wherein R¹ is lower alkyl; and R² is nitro or halogen.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by general formula (IV):



(wherein R, R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein R is lower alkyl, R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which comprises steps of steps of:

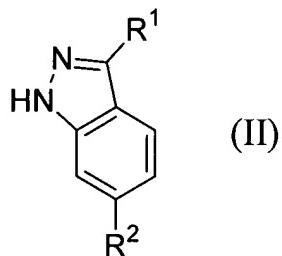
reacting a compound represented by general formula (I):



(wherein R has the same meaning as defined above)

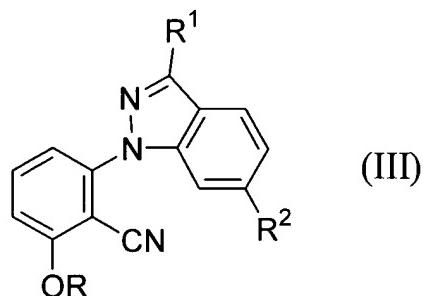
in the presence of a base with a compound represented by general formula

(II):



(wherein R₁ and R₂ have the same meanings as defined above,
respectively) in the presence of a base

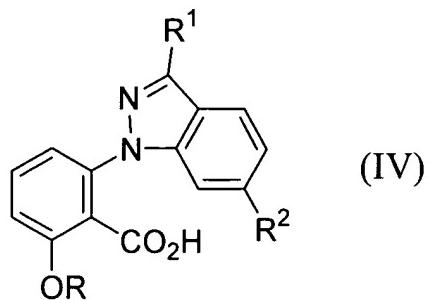
to produce a compound represented by general formula (III):



(wherein R, R₁ and R₂ have the same meanings as defined above,
respectively); and

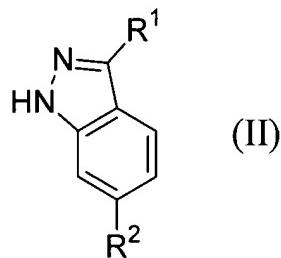
hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by
general formula (III).

6. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative represented by general formula (IV):



(wherein R, R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein R is lower alkyl, R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which comprises:

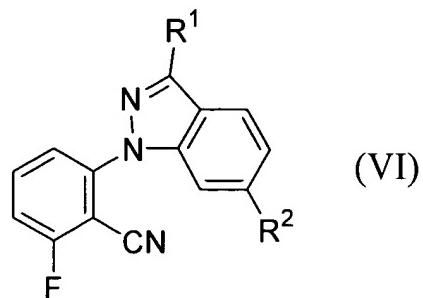
reacting 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile in the presence of a base with a compound represented by **general formula (II):**



(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively)

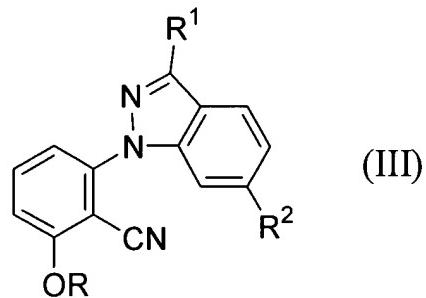
in the presence of a base

to produce a compound represented by **general formula (VI):**



~~(wherein R₁ and R₂ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively);~~

converting the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (VI) into a compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



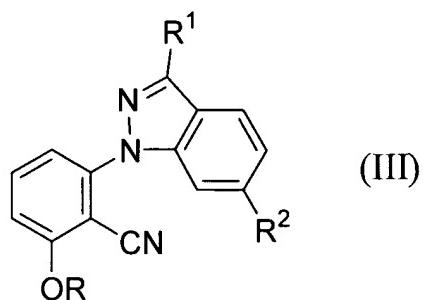
~~(wherein R, R₁ and R₂ have the same meanings as defined above, respectively); and~~

hydrolyzing a cyano group of the resulting compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III).

7. (Original) The process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative according to claim 5 or 6, wherein R is methyl.

8. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~ claims 5 or 6, wherein R¹ is lower alkyl; and R² is nitro or halogen.

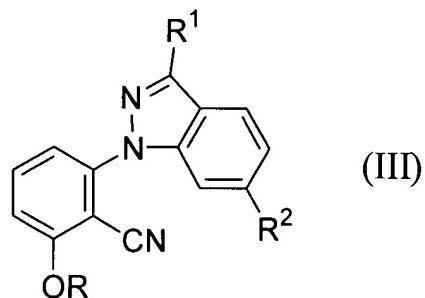
9. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by ~~general~~ formula (III):



(wherein R, R1 and R2 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein R is lower alkyl, R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a salt thereof.

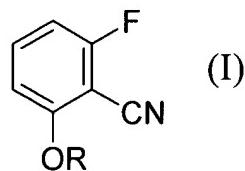
10. (Original) The compound according to claim 9, wherein R is methyl, or a salt thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound represented by general formula (III):



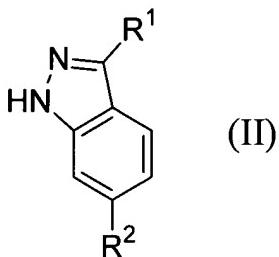
(wherein R, R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein R is lower alkyl, R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which comprises comprises:

reacting a compound represented by general formula (I):



(wherein R has the same meaning as defined above)

in the presence of a base with a compound represented by general formula (II):

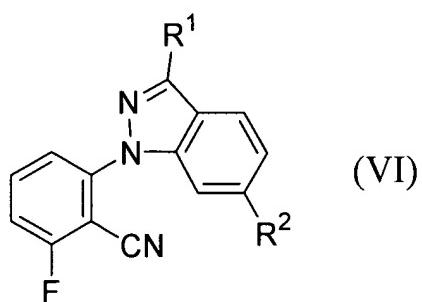


(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above,
respectively)

in the presence of a base.

12. (Original) The process according to claim 11, wherein R is methyl.

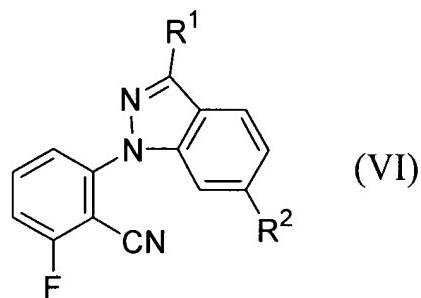
13. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by general formula (VI):



(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl); and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl,

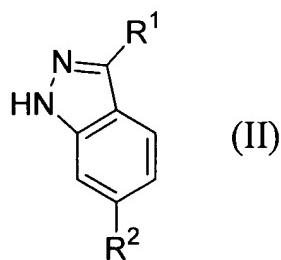
substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl,
or a salt thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound represented by general formula (VI):



(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above, respectively) wherein
wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₂X (wherein X represents a hydrogen atom,
hydroxy, lower alkoxy or benzyloxy), or -OC(=O)R³ (wherein R³ represents lower alkyl);
and R² represents a hydrogen atom, nitro, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl,
substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylthio, or a
substituted or unsubstituted aryl, which comprises

reacting 2,6-difluorobenzonitrile in the presence of a base with a compound represented by general formula (II):



(wherein R¹ and R² have the same meanings as defined above,
respectively)

in the presence of a base.

15. (New) The process for producing a pyrazoloacridone derivative according to claim 3, wherein R¹ is lower alkyl; and R² is nitro or halogen.

16. (New) The process for producing a 1-(2-carboxyphenyl)indazole derivative according to claim 7, wherein R¹ is lower alkyl; and R² is nitro or halogen.